

The Two-Body Problem in Celestial Mechanics

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You've captured my orbit
in the field of your attractor.
I circle your ambit
like the moon on a string or
a frictionless pebble flung into a funnel.
Now here comes the zinger:
that tale of the apple is mostly untrue.
When Newton gazed up, he was struck by an insight,
not beaned in the belfry by a loose-hanging fruit.
He saw that the moon would keep falling forever,
the earth is its lover, they'd both fall together.
He didn't foresee I'd be falling for you.